



# 2025 Executive Committee and National Commission September Meeting—*The Future of the Bioeconomy*

## Meeting Agenda

September 17-18, 2025  
Lafayette, Indiana

### Wednesday, September 17, 2025

**Location:** The Buchanan Club

**Address:**

Purdue University  
Ross-Ade Pavilion  
850 Beering Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

**Parking:** Available on-site

**Rideshare:** Available

**Attire:** Business

**High-level Agenda (All Times Eastern):**

- 5:00 PM - Registration & Reception
- 5:45 PM - Welcome Remarks & Dinner
- 7:30 PM - Participant Introductions
- 8:15 PM - Coffee & Dinner Concludes

### Thursday, September 18, 2025

**Location:** Primient

**Address:**

3300 US Hwy 52 S  
Lafayette, IN 47905

**Parking:** Available on-site

**Rideshare:** Available

**Attire:** Business

**High-level Agenda (All Times Eastern):**

- 8:00 AM - Breakfast & Networking
- 8:30 AM - Programming
- 3:30 PM - Primient Facility Tour
- 4:30 PM - Conclusion of Commission Meeting

# 2025 Executive Committee and National Commission September Meeting—*The Future of the Bioeconomy*

## Meeting Overview

On September 17–18, 2025, the Council's Executive Committee and "National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers," together with the broader Council Community and guest leaders from across the bioeconomy, will convene in Lafayette, IN, to chart a bold plan for unleashing the future of the U.S. bioeconomy.

The agenda kicks off with a strategic assessment of the importance of the bioeconomy to U.S. competitiveness and global leadership—from increasing productivity to more resilient supply chains to strengthening national security to revitalizing manufacturing in the heartland. The agenda then dives deeper into the key competitiveness drivers shaping the bioeconomy, including talent, investment, and technology. A central focus throughout the discussions will be placed on strengthening and expanding the full bioeconomy value chain—from molecular sciences in research institutions and industry, to agricultural innovation in seed breeding, processing, and fermentation, to bio-based manufacturing across industries.

The meeting will conclude with a summarizing panel discussion, synthesis of insights to define clear priorities and next steps, guiding the Commission's ongoing work and shaping future initiatives—particularly as the Council prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2026.

## Meeting Format

The meeting will feature panels, short talks, and open dialogues sparked by kick-off discussants. All participants are encouraged to actively contribute throughout the meeting.

The table setup will be an open square, with microphones easily accessible to ensure everyone's voice is heard.

## Meeting Moderator

Mr. Chad Evans, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Council on Competitiveness, will emcee the meeting, ensuring key discussion points are covered, all voices are drawn into the conversation, and the flow of the day is maintained. Additionally, Dr. Roger Wyse, Co-founder and Managing Partner, RW Associates, will support conversation moderation.

## Wednesday, September 17, 2025 (All Times Eastern)

### Location

Buchanan Club  
Ross-Ade Pavilion  
850 Beering Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

### Agenda

**5:00 PM RECEPTION**

**5:45 PM WELCOME REMARKS**

- Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Erik Fyrwald, CEO, International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF); and Chairman, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient

**6:00 PM FIRESIDE CHAT: LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF THE BIOECONOMY**

- Mr. Erik Fyrwald, CEO, International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF); and Chairman, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient
- Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

**6:30 PM DINNER**

**7:30 PM DESSERT AND LIGHTNING ROUND PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS**

**8:10 PM STAGE SETTING FOR THE NATIONAL COMMISSION MEETING**

- Mr. Chad Evans, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Council on Competitiveness

**8:15 PM COFFEE AND DINNER CONCLUDES**

## Thursday, September 18, 2025 (All Times Eastern)

### Location

The Primient Lafayette Plant  
3300 US Hwy 52 S  
Lafayette, IN 47905

### Agenda

#### **8:00 AM BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING**

#### **8:30 AM WELCOME REMARKS**

- Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Erik Fyrwald, CEO, International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF); and Chairman, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient

#### **8:45 AM SETTING THE COMPETITIVENESS CONTEXT FOR THE BIOECONOMY**

Council on Competitiveness leaders will open the meeting by framing the generational competitiveness opportunity to advance the U.S. bioeconomy. The discussion will explore how the future of the bioeconomy is rooted in key pillars of the "National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers" agenda, including place-based innovation, the convergence of advanced technologies, and cross-sector collaboration—all focused on driving greater U.S. productivity, supply chain resilience, national security, and economic prosperity for all.

#### *Framing questions:*

1. Why is the bioeconomy a strategic—and urgent—frontier for national competitiveness in the decade ahead, and how will the bioeconomy contribute to U.S. growth, resilience, security, and prosperity?
2. What is at stake for both the United States and the world if the United States fails to build a coordinated, expansive, innovation-driven bioeconomy—and how do we ensure we do not miss this moment?

*Panelists:*

- Mr. Erik Fyrwald, CEO, International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF); and Chairman, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Gustavo Sergi, CEO, Sustainea
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient
- Mr. Mark Warner, CEO, Liberation Bioindustries
- **Moderator:** Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

**9:30 AM THE BIOECONOMY ECOSYSTEM: AN EXPLORATION OF THE VALUE CHAIN'S COMPLEXITY AND HOW TO OPTIMIZE IT**

This high-level discussion will examine the full value chain of the bioeconomy—from discovery to deployment—highlighting the interconnected roles of innovation, industry, and policy. The discussion will span the complexity of the ecosystem, including molecular sciences in universities and industry, agricultural companies with a focus on seed innovation, agricultural processors, fermentation and biomanufacturing firms, chemical, materials, and ingredient producers, and CPG companies. This session will introduce many of the key themes to be explored in depth throughout the day.

*Framing questions:*

1. The bioeconomy is incredibly expansive and diverse. How do you think about it, and what are the key rungs along the value chain?
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities in accelerating the U.S. bioeconomy, particularly in bridging scientific discovery and commercial deployment across sectors—from molecular sciences to consumer products?
3. In a global race to scale bio-based solutions, what should the United States do differently to lead across the full value chain?

*Introduction:*

- Dr. Roger Wyse, Co-founder and Managing Partner, RW Associates

*Leadership Perspectives:*

- Mr. John Bode, CEO and President, Corn Refiners Association
- Dr. Sarah Glaven, Gerhard R. Andlinger Visiting Fellow, Princeton University
- Dr. Sean Jones, Deputy Lab Director, Science & Technology, Argonne National Lab
- Dr. Jill Zullo, Executive Vice President and COO, BioMADE

*Open Discussion*

**10:25 AM BREAK**

**10:35 AM MAKING THE BIOECONOMY TRANSITION: FOR AMERICAN CONSUMERS, FARMERS, AND COMMUNITIES**

Too often, bio-based breakthroughs fail to compete with existing products on quality and/or price, failing to deliver real economic impact. This discussion will examine how seed breeders, agricultural processors, and consumer packaged goods companies can help make bio-based products visible, valuable, and viable for mainstream adoption, while ensuring the benefits reach farms, factories, and communities nationwide.

*Framing questions:*

1. What is preventing more bio-based companies and products from competing in the marketplace—cost, scale, consumer preferences, or other factors?
2. What strategies are most effective in building public awareness and trust in bio-based products, and how can we better communicate their value to mainstream audiences?
3. How can we ensure the bioeconomy drives economic growth—creating quality jobs and opportunity on farms, in factories, and across communities nationwide?

*Framing Discussant:*

- Mr. Ben Forsythe, Director of Sustainability and Value Creation, Indiana Soybean Alliance
- Mr. Ajikumar Parayil, Founder and CEO, Manus
- Dr. Todd Pester, Vice President, Seed Research and Development, Corteva Agriscience

*Open Discussion*

**11:20 AM TECH TALK: THE INTERSECTION OF THE BIOECONOMY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND SPACE FRONTIERS**

- Dr. Tahllee Baynard, Vice President, Ignite, Lockheed Martin Space
- Dr. Steven H. Walker, Distinguished Fellow, Council on Competitiveness; Professor of Practice, University of Notre Dame

**11:40 AM CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT TO UNLEASH THE BIOECONOMY IN THE UNITED STATES**

The bioeconomy demands a workforce that cuts across biology, data science, engineering, and business. But do our current systems match the pace and complexity of this emerging field? This discussion looks at the gaps, who is addressing them, and how we can reimagine talent pipelines to meet bioeconomy ambitions.

*Framing questions:*

1. Are today's education and workforce systems equipped to meet the interdisciplinary demands of the bioeconomy—or do we need a fundamental redesign?
2. What bold moves—whether in K–12, higher ed, or workforce development—are needed now to build a diverse, agile, and future-ready bioeconomy workforce?
3. How might AI and other advanced technologies support or expand the talent base?

*Framing discussants:*

- Dr. Monica Dus, Director, Office of National Labs, University of Michigan
- Dr. Douglas Mans, Director, Environmental Molecular Sciences Division, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Dr. Shashank Priya, Vice President, Research and Innovation, University of Minnesota

*Open Discussion*

**12:20 PM LUNCH AND TECH TALK ON A RESEARCH DISCOVERY**

- Prof. Lisa Schulte Moore, Director, Bioeconomy Institute, Iowa State University

**1:00 PM FINANCING THE BIOECONOMY: UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR SCALABLE SOLUTIONS**

The capital needed to scale bio-based solutions is massive, but current investments fall short. What is holding investors back? This session explores public-private models, risk perception, policy signals, and what kinds of capital structures can catalyze growth across the bio value chain. Targeted financing will be critical for capital-intensive segments such as fermentation facilities and chemical/materials production, alongside early-stage molecular sciences and agricultural R&D.

*Framing questions:*

1. What are the key barriers—perceived or real—that are preventing capital from flowing into biotech and biomanufacturing at the scale needed, and how do we break through them?
2. Who should lead and fund a build-out of the bio economy—private sector, federal government, regional coalitions, etc.—and how can partnerships help de-risk investment and accelerate deployment?
3. How can we better align capital structures across the bioeconomy value chain—from R&D to scale-up—to ensure sustained investment and growth?

*Framing discussants:*

- Mr. Dave Resac, Chief Financial Officer, Primient
- Mr. Mark Warner, CEO, Liberation Bioindustries
- Dr. Roger Wyse, Co-founder and Managing Partner, RW Associates

*Open Discussion*

**1:30 PM FROM DISCOVERY TO DEPLOYMENT: ACCELERATING INNOVATION FROM LAB TO MARKET**

Due to a convergence of advanced technologies—including AI—innovation in synthetic biology and biomanufacturing is rapid and accelerating. This discussion will examine the groundbreaking discoveries in bio and how the United States can further accelerate the journey from lab to market without compromising safety or public trust. Advances in fermentation and chemical/materials synthesis serve as vital bridges between laboratory breakthroughs and consumer-ready products.

*Framing questions:*

1. What are the most groundbreaking advancements in genetic engineering, synthetic biology, and biomanufacturing, and how will they improve the health, prosperity, and supply chain security of America and our fellow citizens?
2. What barriers are slowing the U.S. bioeconomy’s innovation-to-commercialization pipeline, and what bold moves are needed to overcome them?
3. How can the United States lead globally in scaling bio-based technologies while maintaining public trust, ethical oversight, and safety?

*Framing discussants:*

- Dr. Beth Conerty, Regional Innovation Officer, iFAB Tech Hub
- Prof. Arthur Ragauskas, Professor and Acting Head, Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Prof. Fabio Ribeiro, Distinguished Professor in Chemical Engineering, Purdue University – CISTAR – LEAPS

*Open Discussion*

**2:00 PM FROM U.S. STRATEGY TO GLOBAL IMPACT: DRIVING PARTNERSHIPS, INNOVATION, AND STANDARDS IN THE BIOECONOMY**

The U.S. bioeconomy faces both remarkable opportunity and real risk—fragmented domestic coordination across the value chain, rising competition in global standards-setting, and a lack of alignment in global trade rules. This discussion will explore how a national strategy can expand domestic and international partnerships, accelerate innovation, improve supply chain resilience, strengthen national security, and secure U.S. leadership in the global bioeconomy.

*Framing questions:*

1. What kinds of domestic and international partnerships and alliances are needed to scale the bioeconomy in the United States and globally?
2. How can the United States balance national interests with global collaboration to build secure, ethical, and resilient bio-based supply chains and trade?
3. What will it take for the United States to lead in setting global standards and regulatory frameworks for the bioeconomy—and what happens if we do not?

*Framing discussants:*

- Mr. James Glueck Jr., Plant Based Products Council, Executive Director
- Dr. Todd Pray, Chief Strategic Partnerships Officer, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Mr. Gustavo Sergi, CEO, Sustainea
- Dr. Michael Wolf, Senior Vice President of Global Operations, Hevolution

*Open Discussion*

**2:30 PM LEVERAGING 40 YEARS OF COMPETITIVENESS IMPACT TO GROW THE U.S. BIOECONOMY**

Building on a day of bold ideas, this discussion will focus on actionable next steps to advance U.S. leadership in the bioeconomy. Panelists will share insights on the essential ingredients and strategic priorities needed to accelerate the bioeconomy, while exploring opportunities to leverage the Council’s 40th anniversary—including the April 2026 bioeconomy-focused Competitiveness Conversation in Omaha, NE—to shape America’s competitiveness over the coming decade.

*Framing questions:*

1. What does success look like for the U.S. bioeconomy initiative, and what are the essential ingredients—policy, infrastructure, investment, technology, talent, public trust—for transitioning production from chemistry to biology?
2. What specific and strategic actions should the National Commission prioritize coming out of this meeting—to shape policy, forge partnerships, and inform the design of the April 2026 bioeconomy-focused Competitiveness Conversation in Omaha, NE?
3. How might the Council leverage its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026 to convene national and global leaders around advancing the U.S. bioeconomy?

*Panelists:*

- Mr. Erik Fyrwald, CEO, International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF); and Chairman, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Jim Stutelberg, CEO, Primient
- **Moderator:** Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

**3:15 PM COUNCIL UPDATE: 2025 NCF & 2026 AGENDA**

- Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness
- Mr. Chad Evans, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Council on Competitiveness

**3:30 PM ADJOURNMENT**

**3:45 PM TOUR OF PRIMIENT’S STATE-OF-THE-ART CORN PROCESSING FACILITY**

For the tour, please wear closed-toed shoes, anticipate warm temperatures, and be prepared to wear a helmet.

**4:30 PM CONCLUSION OF COMMISSION MEETING**